TOBYHANNA

REPORTER

Permit No. 30 Standard U.S. Postage Paid Tobyhanna, PA 18466

Vol. 55, No. 1

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, TOBYHANNA, PA.

(WWW.TOBYHANNA.ARMY.MIL)

JANUARY 11, 2011

News Notes

VIOS link available

A link for VIOS (Visual Information Ordering Site) is now available on the Tobyhanna Intranet under Customer Service. All work orders for visual information assistance should be submitted through the VIOS-VI Service Desk link.

For more information, call Caroline Jurosky, X56789, or Linda Cohen, X57362.

Library posts new e-mail

The Technical Library launched a new customer service email address: TYAD.TechLib@conus.army.mil.

Customers are encouraged to use the service to submit notifications of new supervisors, requests for technical documents, paperless initiative issues and other library related questions. For details, call Jennifer Pilant, X56353.

Retirees plan breakfasts

Depot retirees are invited to breakfast the third Wednesday of every month.

Retirees meet at Perkins restaurant, Route 315, Pittston, from 8 to 10 a.m. Dates are: Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21.

One Stop Shop sells trip tickets

The Civilian Welfare Council is sponsoring a bus trip to Broadway in New York on March 12 to see the play "Catch Me If You Can."

Tickets are \$75 each and are available at the One Stop Shop. A bus will depart the depot at 7:30 a.m. and depart from New York at 6 p.m.

Personnel can make reservations at the One Stop Shop for the March 6 Philadelphia Flower Show.

Cost is \$35 per person and payment is due at the time reservation. A bus will depart the depot at 6:45 a.m. and stop at the King of Prussia Mall.

The One Stop Shop also has a limited amount of 2011 Sno Cove Season Passes for \$50 each.

For more information, call the One Stop Shop, X58851.



William Legg loads a work bar with racks of machined aluminum helmet brackets ready for the hour-long anodizing process, which coats the brackets using a tan dye. Legg is an electroplater in the Refinishing Division's plating shop. (Photo by Steve Grzezdzinski)

Tobyhanna ships 1 million helmet brackets

by Jacqueline Boucher Assistant Editor

Tobyhanna has a million reasons to celebrate the new year. The number of helmet bracket assemblies shipped from here to Soldiers around the world, since 2006, surpassed the one million mark last week. Over the past four years, hundreds of employees have all but perfected the large scale manufacturing of military issue helmet brackets and clips.

"This is an incredible accomplishment for Team Tobyhanna, but more so for Soldiers in the field," said Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Spencer. "This small piece of equipment that warfighters use during their day-to-day operations is crucial to the continuing need to detect, defeat and deny the enemy. It's just another tool that we provide our warfighters to give them that advantage and ultimately to keep them safe."

Workers in several locations across the depot played a vital role in the manufacture of the helmet brackets. Those in the Production Engineering Directorate oversaw the design, testing and programming of the items. Branch employees in Machining and Sheet Metal Fabrication manufactured the blocks and clips, while others in Component Paint, and Finish and Etching sandblasted,

plated or painted each piece. Dozens of people in Building 3 assembled the block and clip, and packaged it with a ballistic screw and lock nut before shipping. Members of the Production Management Directorate managed all the material requisitions and drops, and provided controller and logistics management specialist support

"We are all very proud of this accomplishment," said John DeYoung, sheet metal assembly leader in the Systems Integration and Support (SIS) Directorate. "The process has evolved quite a bit since we started building [the helmet brackets]. Over the years we've made small improvements and conducted a couple Lean events that have helped streamline the process."

On average, the depot generates 5,000 helmet brackets each week, sometimes manning one to three shifts depending on the workload. One of the biggest impacts on the work area was the introduction of more modern machinery to accomplish the job.

"[The helmet bracket job] was probably one of the first real mass productions at Tobyhanna," said Zigmund "Ziggy" Pieszalla, Machining Branch chief. "It created a lot of machine changes for us as well as new acquisitions. It opened the door for modern tooling,

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Cost cutting measures can help keep budget balanced

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Around the Depot spotlights mission, employees

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Innovative ideas impact depot's operating budget

by Mary Ostroski **Productivity, Improvement and Innovation Directorate**

As Tobyhanna seeks to control costs, Lean Six Sigma, Value Engineering, and the Army Suggestion Program are proven methods to cut costs and save money.

These programs have saved the depot millions of dollars. Lean Six Sigma has saved \$156.6 million since its inception in 2002; the Value Engineering Program has saved \$198.2 million over the last 16 years; and the Army Suggestion Program has saved \$8.4 million since 1999.

Although employees are aware of these programs, some may not realize the impact that they have on the overall cost savings to the depot's operating budget.

With each Lean event conducted in the mission and base operations areas, metrics are established at the beginning of the event to identify savings to repair cycle time, improve quality, and reduce rework.

Each process that is streamlined, whether it is the AIM-9M Sidewinder Missile Repair Process or the Public Affairs Office visitor process, contributes to the savings and reduces the operating costs for the depot.

Individual Lean Six Sigma Green and Black Belt projects that employees undertake also contribute to overall savings. When the root cause of a recurring problem is identified and improvements are implemented to resolve the problem, it eliminates the need for rework and represents man-hour

The Value Engineering Program focuses on making strategic investments that provide benefits in excess of the original investment. Projects range from improving ordinary processes to buying complex technical equipment.

A recent value engineering study that saves the depot \$1.3 million a year involves the Dewar Assembly on the Bradley Basic Sight Assembly. Dewar Assemblys were being replaced at a cost of \$12,926 each; a total of \$1,298,899 per year. It was determined that 85 percent of the assemblies could be repaired, which reduced costs to \$5,726 each for a savings of \$1,293,173 per year.

The suggestion program is a valuable tool that can be used by all employees to identify ways to save money throughout the depot. The best suggestions on ways to save time and cut costs come from the employees that perform the work on a daily basis.

Some individual employee suggestions have saved up to

Ideas don't need to be technical in nature For instance, a new tool that helps repair parts versus replacing them, or a way to perform a task or save man-hours. Employee ideas that are submitted and approved through the Army Suggestion Program not only save the depot money, but may earn the employee a monetary award based on the

Employees working on Blue Force Tracking suggested changing the way sheet metal blanks were sheared, which resulted in a material savings of \$307,909. The tangible award payout was \$4,739. Another suggestion about the Gyro Build-Up/Ordering Process recommended the buildup of Gyros ahead of time (using hours which would be charged to each customer based on a monthly demand percentage). This greatly reduced Clean Room Repair Cycle Time and increased through-put, saving eight hours of wait time for every seeker requiring a gyro. An intangible award of \$500 was paid out.

THANKS

I would like to thank all the people at Tobyhanna for all that you do and especially for all the assistance that you have provided to me throughout my career at the depot.

It has been a real pleasure and honor to have worked at Tobyhanna.

I would also like to thank the Command Group (Col. Charles Gibson, Frank Zardecki, Kevin Toolan and Veronica Davis), Marie Burns and The Landing staff for the excellent luncheon, along with all my past commanders and the people who attended. It was a great send off and I will cherish the friendships that I made while at the depot. Keep up the great work. Thank you.

Bernadette McGinley

While driving to work during the recent bitter weather conditions, I silently blessed the road work crew for their diligence and great work in clearing the lots and walkways. I am very grateful and would like to say thank you to all.

Kathleen Sewatsky Production Management Directorate

Members of the Communications Security Division in Building 73 would like to thank Tobyhanna employees for their participation in a recent Lean event. Their adherence to posted security procedures when requesting access to the secure area helped make the event a success. For more information, call the security manager at X56823.

Michael Verton **Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate**

Word on the Street

What cost savings measures would you recommend to help Tobyhanna remain competitive?



"Install sensor lights around the depot such as in parking lots, walkways or bathrooms."



"Employees who use the best, most efficient test equipment, can return items to the customer faster."



"Turn off the power during long weekends or RDOs. People can turn off computer equipment and lights when not in use."



"As a new employee, I'm impressed so far with all the cost saving programs already in place. The recycling program is great."



"Installing air curtains over large doors would help keep the cold air out in the winter reducing the energy used to heat the facility."



"Automatic personnel doors stay open a long time, which lets out warm air in the winter and cool air in the summer. Maybe change the type of door used or shorten the amount of time the door remains open."

Lvnn Hill LOGSA Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center

Army.

Mike Murray **Communications Systems Directorate**

Anthony Smith Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate

Kathrvn Bluestone Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate

Joe Olsommer Systems Integration and Support Directorate

JoAnn Tucky Test Measurement and Diagnostic Support Center

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

The Tobyhanna Reporter is an authorized, biweekly publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Tobyhanna Reporter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the

The 6,000 copies are printed by a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. government, under exclusive written contract with Tobyhanna Army Depot.

The editor reserves the right to edit all information

submitted for publication.

News may be submitted to the Tobyhanna Reporter, Tobyhanna Army Depot, 11 Hap Arnold Boulevard, Tobyhanna, Pa., 18466-5076. (Internal Mail Stop 5076.) Telephone (570) 615-7557 or DISN 795-7557.

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TEAM TOBYHANNA **E**XCELLENCE IN **E**LECTRONICS

Depot takes steps to curb costs, remain competitive

by Anthony Ricchiazzi **Editor**

Tobyhanna plans to reduce operating costs by 10 percent this year in a twopronged effort to prepare for anticipated federal budget reductions and to maintain the depot's competitive posture.

The sweeping pay freeze for most federal employees and the cut in the defense budget growth underscores the seriousness of government cost control measures.

Earlier this year, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said he wants to instill a culture of saving in the department, according to an American Forces Press Service article. Money saved with these efficiencies will go back into funding needed military capabilities.

"To be clear, the task before us is not to reduce the department's top-line budget," Gates said. "Rather, it is to significantly reduce its excess overhead costs and apply the savings to force structure and modernization." The savings in overhead are crucial to making up that difference, he said.

"Reducing expenses against the revenue we earn is always important for working capital funded organizations, such as Tobyhanna. It's even more important in today's environment," said depot commander Col. Charles Gibson. "We need every employee looking at ways to operate with a way to stretch every dollar. As we know, customers always look for the best

value for their money. We need to take steps that will help secure our workload while delivering more products and services."

To that end, the depot is targeting reducing overhead costs by 10 percent this fiscal year.

"The best way to do this is to confront it head on by reviewing what we're spending our money on and cutting costs wherever possible," said Frank Zardecki, deputy commander. "We are going to implement cost cutting measures to move us towards that 10 percent goal. Every organization and individual can change the way they operate to contribute toward this goal."

On the organizational level, depot leaders are reviewing contracts to identify what is essential to the depot's mission and trimming what isn't. Job vacancies will be reviewed to determine if they truly need to be filled of if the work can be done by current employees.

"We can anticipate that we'll be asked to do our jobs with fewer dollars," said Rick Shuleski, director of Resource Management. "Travel will be cut to essential personnel only. All travel related costs will be scrutinized. If two people can do the job when before we were sending four people, then perhaps they need only one rental vehicle."

Printing and copier costs will also be carefully considered to determine if black and white is adequate versus the more expensive color, if printing doublesided should be standard procedure or if



Tobyhanna plans to reduce operating costs by 10 percent this year due to anticipated federal budget reductions and to maintain the depot's competitive posture.

paper copies are even required in some circumstances.

"If presentations are going to be shown on monitors, then it may make sense not to print them," Shuleski said. "It may not seem that these actions will make much of a dent, but saving on a regular basis adds up over time."

Requests for new equipment will be granted only if it can be demonstrated that the equipment is absolutely needed and that there will be a return on investment for the

equipment purchase.

We must properly align purchases with workload to get the most out of our funds," Shuleski said. "Everything, really, is on the table to trim as much as possible without harming our ability to provide the best possible support to the warfighter. It's all meant to stay competitive while supporting DoD's effort to meet budget cuts.'

"These efforts will help protect the investment in infrastructure that the depot continually makes to upgrade facilities and equipment," Gibson added. "In other words, if we take steps to use our funds wisely, we won't have to worry so much about how to pay for future equipment upgrades and facility maintenance."

Individually, employees can make immediate differences by shutting off lights and equipment. Everything from warehouse lights to fax machines are under review to see if employees will shut them off at certain times, such as weekends. "Wherever possible and practical, shut off nonessential equipment, including copiers and computers, every weekend," Shuleski noted.

A related energy conservation effort is being implemented now. Workers are being directed to shut down non-essential electronic equipment over long holiday

Employees will be asked to be more careful than ever with annual and sick leave. "Leave impacts our overall productive yield, so using it only when necessary is important," Shuleski said.

Employees are also asked to contribute to the Lean Six Sigma effort and suggestion programs. Shuleski pointed out that those programs are a big part of the depot's continuous process improvement efforts and have saved significant amounts of

"We welcome employee input on cutting costs because they may see a savings during daily operations that might otherwise be overlooked," Shuleski said.

"I can't emphasize enough how critical it has become to control our overhead costs," Gibson said. "It is vital that employees be on board with these efforts. We've seen the positive outcomes when employees are active participants in the Lean and suggestion programs. They are the key to making this cost reduction effort work."

Budget cuts: Army will fund critical investments

by Jim Garamone **American Forces Press Service**

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Defense Department officials have found \$154 billion in budget efficiencies over the next five years and will be able to invest \$70 billion of that saved money in more-deserving accounts, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said

The secretary announced the savings and reinvesting of the efficiencies during a Pentagon news conference.

Secretary Gates said that the nation is at war and faces a range of future security threats.

"It is important to not repeat the mistakes of the past by making drastic and ill-conceived cuts to the overall defense budget," he said. "At the same time, it is imperative for this department to eliminate wasteful, excessive and unneeded spending.

Secretary Gates said he wants every dollar invested in defense spent in the smartest manner.

The efficiencies continue a process to reshape and re-balance the defense budget that has already saved the nation \$300 billion, he noted.

The secretary announced efficiencies in modernization

The secretary said he also wants changes to the military's TRICARE medical program, noting that fees have not risen since the program was introduced in 1995.

He said he will propose modest increases to fees for workingage military retirees.

These changes also will be part of the fiscal 2012 budget request. Army officials will cancel procurement of the surface-launched advanced medium range air-to-air missile and the non-line-of-sight launch system.

The efficiencies will change the way the department uses information technology, consolidating hundreds of information technology centers to save more than \$1 billion a year, Secretary Gates said.

"At the same time," he added, "I am not satisfied with the progress we have made in this area since August, and expect to make a follow-on announcement with a specific plan of action by

The efficiencies will cut the number of contractors.

"Overall, we will cut the size of the staff support contractor cadre by 10 percent per year for three years and realize nearly \$3 billion in total savings," the secretary said.

A third efficiency will trim the size of the defense work force and place more in areas with the most pressing need, he said.

This should yield \$4 billion in savings, he added.

Secretary Gates also said he's initiating changes in the defense intelligence apparatus, and will eliminate or downgrade general and flag officer positions. He will also eliminate or downgrade 200 senior executive positions.

The efficiencies will eliminate the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Network Intelligence and Information, the Business Transformation Agency and the U.S. Joint Forces Command, Secretary Gates said, though roughly 50 percent of Joint Forces Command will survive and be assigned to other

In April, Secretary Gates instructed the services to find at least \$100 billion over five years in overhead savings that they could keep and shift to higher-priority programs. They have done so.

In addition, defense agencies have found \$54 billion in possible

Army officials have proposed \$29 billion in savings.

Of the \$100 billion in savings, the services will use about \$28 billion to deal with higher-than-expected operating expenses. These costs include health care, pay and housing allowances, sustainment of weapons systems, depot maintenance, base support and flight hours, and other training.

But this still leaves the services with \$70 billion to reinvest in higher-priority systems.

The Army will invest in Soldiers by improving suicideprevention and substance-abuse counseling. The service will also modernize its battle fleets of Abrams tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles and Stryker wheeled vehicles.

The service also will accelerate fielding of the newest tactical communications network and will invest in more unmanned aerial vehicles and a new unmanned helicopter.





Left, Kevin Wilkinson, electronic measurement equipment mechanic leader, uses a power strip to plug in multiple items in the U.S. Army TMDE Support Center-Tobyhanna.

Above, Adam Walski and Lori Smotryski post safety information on the bulletin board in the Resource Management Directorate's Manpower and Management Analysis Division. Walski is the organization's safety star point and Smotryski, a management analyst. (Photos by Steve Grzezdzinski)

Cost centers earn accolades for first-rate safety programs

by Jacqueline Boucher **Assistant Editor**

Depot and tenant organization safety programs recently competed for the 2010 Safety Area of the Year Awards.

Three directorates and one tenant agency were recognized for their contributions to Tobyhanna's safety mission. The Systems Integration and Support Directorate's Component Painting Branch claimed the Heavy Industrial Area; the Resource Management Directorate's Manpower and Management Analysis (MMA) Division earned first place in the Administrative Area; the Production Management Directorate's Materiel Accountability and Analysis Branch took top honors in the Medium/Light Industrial Area, and U.S. Army TMDE Support Center-Tobyhanna walked away with the Tenant Activity Award.

The annual awards acknowledge cost centers that have outstanding safety programs and individuals whose performances have best supported the depot's safety mission.

William Freeman says everyone in TMDE plays an active role in the safety program. Supervisors and employees work together to prevent, correct and respond to any safety issue.

"Employees are fully empowered to take appropriate action to help prevent or resolve hazardous situations," the support center director noted. "As a result, they feel comfortable alerting supervisors of potential dangers and providing assistance."

For the past several years this area's radiation safety program has been rated outstanding at their headquarters' level, according to Paula Mesaris, acting Safety Division chief.

"[TMDE] promotes open communication between team members, which allows hazardous conditions to be addressed quickly," Mesaris said. "Employees check and test electrical equipment, fire extinguishers, eyewash stations, flooring, lighting and ventilation regularly."

Depot officials in each category often conduct inspections to promote safety in the work place.

"It's up to me to set the example," said Michael Bednar, Materiel Accountability and Analysis Branch (MAAB) chief. "I promote safety by performing unscheduled visits and by challenging employees to work safely and report potential safety hazards."

All employees need to be concerned about various hazards, such as material handling equipment, box cutters, and oversized and heavy items, according to Bednar. Employees also need to be alert when working around products such as



Component Paint Branch.

sheet metal and other raw metals used in depot fabrication shops, he added. MAAB employees have gone more than 1,400 days without a recordable injury.

"The branch made several changes within the cost center last year," Mesaris said. "The team worked together to identify and address safety issues, and obtain new equipment and Personnel Protective Equipment, making the entire work place safer."

Depot employees are able to make significant and positive impacts on an organization's safety program through continuous improvement. Organizations track and schedule training through the Total Employment Development system.

"We feel that training plays an essential role in the evelopment of employees," said Robert Edmunds, MMA division chief. "It provides them with knowledge that becomes indispensable when dealing with safety related issues."

Edmunds acknowledges that dangers in an office environment are vastly different from that of a direct mission area; however, they do exist. The use of ergonomic equipment in the office is just as important as wearing proper PPE in the warehouse – the use of both can have an impact on an employee's quality of life, he added.

"Our team takes great pride in making sure that the work environment is safe for everyone and everyone works together," said Adam Walski, the division's safety star point. "This award means a lot to us."

The Component Painting Branch maintains a safe work



Michael Deiter punctures cans to relieve pressure and remove any residual liquids prior to recycling. Deiter works in the Production Management Directorate's Materiel Management Division.

by following safety standards established in the Job Hazard Analysis. In addition, the cost center's safety star point relays any information, issues, concerns and ideas to employees during weekly staff meetings.

The supervisors and employees also discuss 'what-if' scenarios to help them be better prepared in the event of an

"In 2010, the branch had a staggering low amount of safety related injuries," said Jay Wilson, branch chief. "An injury hasn't been reported in more than 340 days."

Increased emphasis was placed on the labeling, identification and proper handling and disposal of hazardous materials, according to Mesaris. "Members of this cost center look for and implement best practices to safeguard Tobyhanna and the environment."

EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

AROUND THE DEPOT



Recreation Aids Else Ramey, left, and Deb Chwal perform daily housekeeping services at Tobyhanna Villas in the Poconos. For reservations or other services, call X56343.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Community Services Directorate

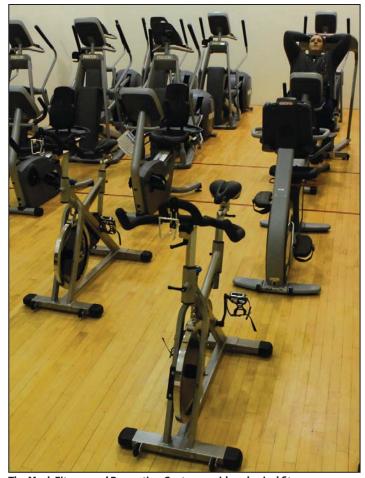
Tobyhanna's headquarters for recreation programs, fitness facilities, child and youth programs, dining and entertainment. MWR has many different facilities throughout the depot and all are available to employees, active military, retired military and immediate family members. Facilities include the Mack Fitness and Recreation Center, Check-It-Out Center, Post Auto Service Shop, Child, Youth and School Services, Army Community Services, Post Restaurant facilities, The Landing, Graphics Magic, One Stop Shop and Tobyhanna Villas in the Poconos . For more information about MWR programs, call 570-615-7150.



Barbara Warneke, recreation aid, puts sweatshirts on display in front of the One Stop Shop. The shop also rents movies, loans books and sells tickets to local events and businesses.



Karl Kunkle, food service worker, preps food for all three Tobyhanna cafeterias and ensures the facilities remain stocked throughout the day.



The Mack Fitness and Recreation Center provides physical fitness programs and equipment to the depot community.





Above, Dawn Parkes, child and youth program assistant, reads a story to children at the Child Development Center.

Left, Ryan Olsommer, lead mechanic at the auto service shop, installs a new radiator. Olsommer and two other mechanics man the shop five days a week.

Photos by Steve Grzezdzinski

CAREER MILESTONE



From left, Gerald Conrad, Paul Peters, depot commander Col. Charles C. Gibson, Roland Cragle, Lucinda Davis and Joseph Bianco attend the Length of Service ceremony held Dec. 22.

Five Tobyhanna employees were recognized for their years of government service during the Dec. 22 Length of Service Ceremony.

Joseph Bianco — 30 years, logistics management specialist, Manufacturing Support Division, Production Management Directorate.

Lucinda Davis — 30 years, supply technician, Communications Security Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

Roland Cragle — 30 years, sandblaster, Refinishing Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

Paul Peters — 30 years, electronics mechanic,

Range Threat Systems Division, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

Gerald Conrad — 30 years, electronics mechanic leader, Avionics Division, Command, Control and Computer Systems/Avionics Directorate.

In addition to service certificates and pins, employees with 30 years of service receive a framed American Flag that includes a photo of the depot signed by their coworkers.

Honorees who attend their Length of Service Ceremony also receive a four-hour time-off award. Depot commander Col. Charles C. Gibson presented the awards.

RETIREES

Name	Retirement date	Organization
Stanley Fryzel	Dec. 31	D/BM
Janet Giarratano	Dec. 31	D/SIS
Bernadette McGinley	Jan. 1	Command Group
Robert Doyle	Jan. 1	D/C3/Avionics
Glenn Jayne	Jan. 1	D/CS
James Piccotti	Jan. 1	D/CS
Paul Peters	Jan. 1	D/ISR
Joseph Zurcher	Jan. 1	D/PII
Nancy Turha	Jan. 1	D/RM
Anthony Chichilla	Jan. 1	D/SIS
Cheryl Clark	Jan. 1	D/PM

WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
Thomas Anuszewski	Security guard	D/IRM
Christopher Balios	Logistics management specialist	D/C3/Avionics
Kathryn Bluestone	Secretary	D/ISR
James Bochiccia	Industrial engineer	LOGSA
Ryan Craig	Security guard	D/IRM
Brian Cianchetti	Safety/occupational health spec	D/IRM
Scott Gilbert	Production controller	D/PM
Edward Matla	Industrial engineer	D/PII
Blake Nuckolls	Security guard	D/IRM
Heather Rutkowski	Secretary	D/C3/Avionics
Jeremy Smith	Police officer	D/IRM
Christopher Stine	Security guard	D/IRM

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Jacqueline.Boucher@ us.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section. Voluntary submission of items constitutes individual's consent to publish personal information all versions of the Tobyhanna Reporter.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin.

For information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.



VAN/CAR POOLS

Clarks Summit area: 4 openings, 5/4/9, both Fridays, nonsmoking, contact Karen Galaydick, X56091, karen. galaydick@us.army.mil.

Nanticoke: 1 opening, 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 5/4/9, both Fridays, everyone drives, "A" placard, nonsmoking, leaves Nanticoke Armory, call Delores Walski, X59848.

Wilkes-Barre/Pittston: 2 openings, 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., "A" placard, pick up points are at Route 309/Blackman or the Pittston exit off Route 81, call John, X57007.

Swoyersville, Exeter, Pittston Plaza: 2 openings, van, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., 5/4/9, both Fridays, nonsmoking, call Mike, X59055 or George, X57063.

Dallas: 1 opening, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m., travels through Shavertown, Luzerne, Wilkes-Barre, to I-81 north then I-380 east, call Ralph Szalkowski, X59559 or Roy Fulkersin, X56120.

Bartonsville: 1 opening, 5/4/9, van, travels from Bartonsville up Route 611 to Tannersville, through Scot Run, Swiftwater and Mt. Pocono, call Tom, X56289 or Ed, X58834.

Wilkes-Barre: opening, A placard, nonsmoking, 5/4/9, both Fridays, leaves Jack Williams Tire and Auto at 6 a.m., call Jim, X56170.

White Haven: 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, H parking, 5/4/9, nonsmoking, call David Swankosky, X59467.

Jermyn, Mayfield, Carbondale: 2 openings, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., 5/4/9, both Fridays, everyone drives, "A" placard, nonsmoking, meets at Carbondale Park & Ride, call John, X58676, X57581 or 872-6518.

Dunmore: 2 openings, 5/4/9, runs both Fridays, smoking, call John Gastinger, X56513.

Wilkes-Barre: opening, 5/4/9, both Fridays, nonsmoking, first shift, pick up points at Schiel's Market on George Ave., Parsons section, contact Lou Roberts, X57705 or louis.p.roberts@us.army.mil.

Meshoppen, Tunkhannock, Factoryville, Dalton, Waverly, Route 632 to I-81: 3 openings, 5/4/9, 2nd RDO, nonsmoking, A placard, contact Thomas Zinram, X58736 or Thomas.zinram@us.army.mil.

Nanticoke: openings, van, 5/4/9, runs both Fridays, A placard, nonsmoking, call Chuck, X56883

Lehigh Valley: 1 opening, 5/4/9, first shift, both Fridays, nonsmoking, meets at William Penn Highway/Route 33, call Ed Estrada, X58751.

Carbondale: 1 opening, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 5/4/9, door-todoor pick up, all drive, both Friday's, "A" placard, nonsmoking, call Patrick, X57178.



TRADING POST

Computer: Dell Dimension 2400, fresh Windows XP boot (SP3), Microsoft Office 2007, 17-inch flat panel monitor, keyboard, mouse, speakers, great student computer, \$300, call John Kasse, 216-0165.

Acoustic guitar: Yamaha FG 700s, sounds great, used

twice, great beginners guitar, Yamaha gig bag, guitar stand, instructional DVD, extra strings, string winder, guitar strap, picks, E-media Guitar Method Deluxe Version 5/2 disc CD-ROM learning software w/over 350 lessons, asking \$250 OBO for everything. Call or text Jon, 780-6533.

Exercise equipment: Body Solid Universal, excellent condition, paid \$2,800, asking \$800, contact 484-553-5146 or MEP491955@aol.com.

Household items: Dishwasher, \$75; gas range, \$100; electric range, \$150; solid oak bedroom furniture suite that includes a king-size wall unit storage headboard and triple-width vanity dresser with mirrors, \$200 OBO, call Don, 216-1519.

Snow blower: Sears Craftsman snow blower, 5 HP, electric start, 21-inches, 2 cycle, single stage, 4 years old, looks and runs great, manual included, \$175, call Tom, 610-866-1725.

Tonneau cover: Hummer H3T Diamond Back black Kevlar, fits Hummer H3T, mint condition, \$650, call Rich, 587-1901. Exercise equipment: Bowflex Extreme 2 home gym, like new condition, 56"d x 50"w x 83"h, weight stack 210 pounds, \$950 OBO, call Jared 540-9152.

Moving sale: Ryobi 10-inch compound miter saw, new, never used, \$100 OBO; Craftsman triple stack, roll away tool chest, excellent condition, w/drawer liners and locks, \$165 OBO; Kustom KGA65 guitar amp, excellent condition, \$95 OBO; Huffy portable basketball hoop, excellent condition, \$60 OBO. Call Rick, 643-2345.

Vehicle: 1999 VW Cabrio GLS, convertible, black top, tan interior, power windows/locks, heated seats, 103,000 miles, asking \$4,500 OBO, good condition, call Lindsey, 470-7487. Misc: car mats for 2008 Honda CRV, \$70; Hoover upright sweeper, \$30, and chair for living room, red velvet with wood trim, \$20. Call Paul Naples, 655-8207.

House: \$119K, must sell, moving to Florida, Rosemont Drive, 2,000 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 21/2 baths, garage, wood stove, deck, 5 miles from depot, call 894-9791.

Vehicle: 2000 Pontiac Bonneville SSEI, loaded, 2 new tires, 75,750 miles, \$4,000, great condition, call Blaise, 883-9981.



Jack Kinney, sheet metal worker, staples the bag for the helmet bracket in the assembly area. Kinney is assigned to the System's Integration and Support Directorate's Assembly Branch. (Photo by Steve Grzezdzinski).

BRACKETS from Page 1

which allowed for quicker production."

According to Joseph Lynn, it takes 452 pounds of material to create 5,000 clips and 1,252 feet of aircraft aluminum bar to create the same number of brackets. Lynn is a production controller in Production Management's Manufacturing Support Division.

"Early on, raw stock for the clips were tooled using existing methods until the depot purchased a dedicated machine that not only cuts the blanks, it forms the pieces." said Bob Aten, Sheet Metal Fabrication Branch chief.

Small changes have also occurred over the years. To begin with, Tobyhanna switched from using aluminum cast to aircraft aluminum to make the item stronger and more resilient. Plus, there were some challenges to overcome when the depot changed the bracket's color from black to tan. Most recently, the helmet bracket design was modified to accept the ballistic screw. Other than that the job has remained relatively the same.

Lou Bocci remembered a visiting Soldier who raved about the changes to the helmet bracket assembly.

"He remarked that his aluminum cast helmet bracket used to break if he hit it on the turret. Now, using our bracket, it stays intact, said the Finish and Etching Branch chief. "That Soldier took the time to shake hands with the employees and thanked them for their hard work."

Depot officials agree there are a lot of dedicated people working on the helmet bracket project.

"As a team they've proven they are capable of great things," said Tom Sweeney, logistics management specialist, noting how supportive everyone has been since the program began years ago. Sweeney anticipates future requirements to include more work with the current design as well as the possibility for work on the Enhanced Combat Helmet design for the Marine Corps.

Suicide Prevention Alliance focuses on troops, veterans

WASHINGTON — A suicide prevention task force for troops and veterans has been added to a national alliance that officials hope will help bring more attention to the issues and offer solutions in the future.

The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention last week announced that troops and veterans, identified as a high-risk group, were added because of their increased suicide rates.

"Combined with initiatives already under way by the Department of Defense and the [Department of Veterans Affairs], this task force will further strengthen prevention, bringing together the best minds in the public and private sectors," said Army Secretary John McHugh, co-chair of the alliance.

The alliance was launched last year by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, with input and support of many public- and private-sector stakeholders, including the National Council for Suicide Prevention and VA.

Speaking at the launch of the alliance, a public-private partnership, Gates emphasized the importance of a nationwide approach to suicide prevention. The alliance's strategy pools federal and private-sector research and resources to work on addressing the national suicide rate.

"In everything we do, we must remember that every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine is part, not just of the military, but also a larger community. Their families, their hometowns, their civilian employers, their places of worship -- all must be involved in the solution," Gates

The military suicide rate has increased steadily over the past five years, exceeding the national average of 11.1 suicides per 100,000 people. The military last year averaged 12.5 suicides per 100,000, according DoD reports. (American Forces Press Service)

IM specialists provide hints to guard against online theft of personal info

by Charles Pollarine **Information Technology Specialist**

It's easy for today's consumer to turn to their computer for a little retail therapy.

Although there are many perks to online shopping, shoppers need to guard against thieves eager to steal personal credit card and bank information. Information specialists here have compiled a list of helpful hints to ensure a safe shopping experience.

When shopping online, make sure the site is equipped with a secure server, to safely accept personal information. When entering data on a secure site, you should see the "http" change to "https" in the address bar and at the bottom of the browser see a "lock or key" appear. You should also see a security warning box that pops up on the shopping site.

In addition, use a credit or debit card that offers a safe shopping online guarantee. There are cards that provide 100 percent coverage for any losses due to fraud; personally, I use prepaid

cards. This helps protect my banking information from being stolen. Don't forget to keep a record of the transaction. Print the order form and confirmation number for future reference.

It's also important to understand each retail site's website policies regarding privacy. Make sure the vendor protects a shopper's personal information.

Strong passwords make it harder for outsiders to hack into your accounts. Be creative. Consider crafting a phrase you can easily remember, like Im4golfanyd@y. Remember, reputable online retailers NEVER ask for personal information such as a social security number or birth date. For those people who have children who shop online, supervise their webordering transactions.

Finally, keep track of purchases during the holiday. That way it will be easier to spot any fraudulent activity and double check credit card bills.

For more information, contact the Information Assurance office, X59392, or charles.pollarine@us.army.mil.

New Division Chief

John Parada is chief of the Field Logistics Support Directorate's Expeditionary

As chief, he supervises employees who provide field sustainment, installation and repair work on command, control, computers and communication equipment in Southwest Asia.

Prior to his current position, Parada was the Forward Repair Activity support program manager for the former Forward Repair Activity Division's West Branch.

He began his career at Tobyhanna in

Parada served four years in the Navy and 18 years in the Navy Reserve, retiring in 2007 as a chief petty officer. While on active duty he worked as a hull technician in Holy Loch, Scotland, aboard the USS



aboard the USS Ellison. He was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 21 in Lakehurst, N.J., while in the

Holland, and in Philadelphia

He held various staff positions, including battalion safety officer and the training staff senior enlisted and operations staff

senior enlisted.

His awards and decorations include the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy "E" Medal with four oak leaf clusters, and the Navy Good Conduct Medal.

Parada is a 1976 graduate of Bishop Hoban High School in Wilkes-Barre.

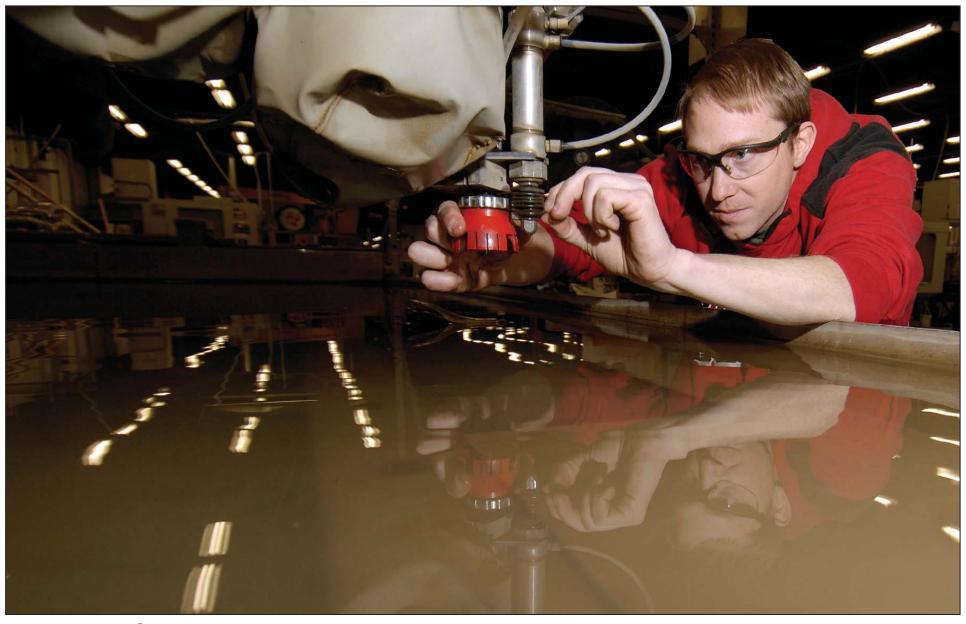
He is a member of St. Mary's of the Assumption Church. His hobbies include golf, motorcycles and home improvement.



READ THE TOBYHANNA REPORTER

ON THE DEPOT'S INTERNET SITE. CURRENT AND ARCHIVED ISSUES OF THE BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION CAN BE VIEWED AT

HTTP://www.tobyhanna.army.mil/about/news/reporter.html



A moment to reflect

Rich Zuraski, machine tool operator, sets up the a water jet cutting machine for a job. Employees in the Machining Branch use the Flow Jet to cut metal, plastics and fiberglass with a high pressure water stream that is injected with an abrasive material. Zuraski works in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate's Industrial Services Division.



TELEVISION STATIONS WNEP, Channel 16 WYOU, Channel 22 WBRE, Channel 28

WAEB, 790 (Allentown) WARM, 590 (Scranton) WKAP, 1470 (Allentown) WEJL (ESPN), 630 (Scranton) WILK, 910/980 (Pittston) WICK, 1400 (Scranton)

FM radio stations WAEB, 104.1 (Allentown) WMGH, 105.5 (Allentown) WKAB, 103.5 (Berwick) WMGS, 92.9 (Scranton) WKRZ, 98.5 (Pittston) WGGY, 101.3 (Pittston) WWDL, 105 (Scranton) WEZX, 106.9 (Scranton)

Winter weather often produces hazardous conditions that may impact the depot's operational status. Public announcements regarding depot closings or starting time delays will be provided to local television and radio stations, and recorded on a toll free information hotline. Employees are encouraged to tune in to the media outlets listed below or call 1-800-429-4496 to hear the recorded announcement.

VA officials urge veterans to sign up for electronic payment of benefits

WASHINGTON — Department of the Treasury officials have announced a new rule that will extend the safety and convenience of electronic payments to millions of Americans and phase out paper checks for federal benefits by March 1, 2013. Officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs urge veterans to sign up for electronic payment of their

"Receiving VA benefits electronically will increase the security, convenience and reliability of these vital payments," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. "VA encourages veterans who are now receiving their benefits in paper checks to set up direct deposits before the deadline."

On March 1, 2013, VA officials will stop issuing paper checks. People who do not have electronic payments for their federal benefits by that time will receive their funds via a pre-paid debit card. Called the Direct Express card, it is issued by Comerica Bank as the financial agent of the U.S. Treasury.

Another deadline affects people receiving VA's compensation or pensions for the first time after May 1. People will automatically receive the benefits electronically.

Anyone already receiving federal benefit payments electronically will be unaffected by the changes. To learn more about the federal government's switch to direct deposit, or to change VA benefits to direct deposit, visit www.GoDirect.org. Information about the federal government's "Go Direct" campaign also is available by calling 1-800-333-1795.

Along with payments for VA benefits, the change also will affect recipients of payments from Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement Board, or Office of Personnel Management.

For more information, go to www.va.gov or call toll free 1-800-827-1000.



THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP) MONTHLY RATES CHART IS ON THE INTERNET www.tsp.gov/index.html

To check out how retirement investments are doing, click on the following links: Returns, Share Prices & Fund Sheets, Current Returns, Monthly Returns, and Individual TSP Funds

